

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mitsubishi (GB 2,165,631). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Notwithstanding, claim 1 is amended to recite that the face of the light guide opposite to the light emitting face thereof projects beyond the light emitting face at a side of the inclined plane. This configuration is shown in Fig. 6. As can be seen in Fig. 6, the face of the light guide opposite the light emitting face extends beyond the light emitting face at the side of the inclined plane. According to this feature, the light which is emitted from the light source and reaches the inclined plane without being emitted from the light-emitting face to the outside, is reflected at both the inclined plane and the face opposite the light-emitting face. As a result, the luminance of the emitted planar light is made more uniform.

Mitsubishi is completely silent with respect to such an arrangement. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdraw of this rejection are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5-7, 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitsubishi in view of Yokoyama (U.S. Pat. No. 5,134,549) Suzawa (U.S. Pat. No. 4,487,481). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Notwithstanding, independent claims 5, 9, and 10 are amended to recite that the face of the light guide opposite to the light emitting face thereof projects beyond the light emitting face at a side of the inclined plane. This is the same configuration as argued above with respect to claim 1. As can be seen in Fig. 6, the face of the light guide opposite the light emitting face extends beyond the light emitting face at the side of the inclined plane. Accordingly, light emitted from the light source that reaches the inclined plane without being emitted from the light-emitting face is reflected at both the inclined plane and the face opposite the light-emitting face. As such, the luminance of the emitted planar light is made more uniform.

Mitsubishi, Yokoyama and Suzawa are completely silent with respect to such an arrangement. Furthermore, neither Mitsubishi, Yokoyama, nor Suzawa provide any suggestion or motivation to modify their teachings to arrive at the claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdraw of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 6 and 7 depend from claim 5 and should be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as set forth above.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitsubishi in view of Yokoyama (U.S. Pat. No. 5,134,549) and Suzawa (U.S. Pat. No. 4,487,481) and further in view of Kenmochi (U.S. Pat. No. 5,128,842). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 8 depends from claim 5 and should be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as set forth above.

New Claims

New claims 11 and 12 are presented herein. Support for these claims can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed. Favorable consideration of these new claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 7, 2003

By: 

G. Gregory Schivley

Reg. No. 27,382

Bryant E. Wade

Reg. No. 40,344

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600